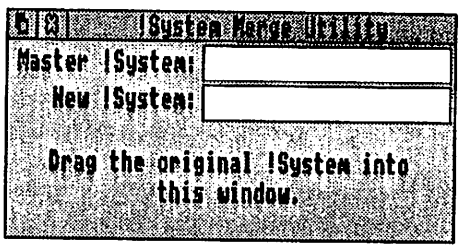
Star/Epson Colour Printer Driver Release Notes

PrinterLC is a version 2 printer driver suitable for printing on most Star and Epson colour printers. These notes give information about the installation and use of this printer driver, but please refer to your Archimedes User Guide for further information.

Installation

Before starting, make a backup copy of the printer driver master disc, and place the original master in a safe place. If you use a hard disc, copy *!PrinterLC* from the master disc to the printer driver directory (or any suitable position) on your hard disc.

Release 2 printer drivers such as PrinterLC require that the module MsgTrans is loaded before they will run. This module is supplied on the master disc in the *!System* directory. The *!System* directory supplied should be merged with your usual *!System* directory; it should not replace it. The utility SysMerge, supplied on the



master disc, should be used for this purpose. Startup the SysMerge application by double clicking on *!SysMerge*. The following dialogue box will appear:
Drag your master *!System* directory to anywhere in the SysMerge dialogue box. The upper box (for the Master *!System*) should change to show the path name of your master *!System*. You should now drag the *!System* from the printer driver disc into the dialogue box. The pathname for this will appear in the lower box. (If you use a purely floppy based system you may have to change discs during this process. If there are no problems the *!Systems* will be consolidated and the message `!System Updated` will appear. If there are problems, you should read the error messages and take appropriate action. The only common error message you may see is `Disc full` which should not occur if you are consolidating onto a new system disc. If you have additional files on the master *!System* disc you should move them elsewhere.

When SysMerge is finished you can quit the application either by clicking **Menu** on the SysMerge window and selecting **Quit** or by selecting the close icon on the window. You should repeat the above process on all the *!Systems* on all your discs until you have the one master *!System*. This can then be used for all your work. Its probably worthwhile making a copy of it once it is produced and putting that copy away somewhere safe.

Remember when you modify your master *!System* in future, you should take a new copy of it. Do not delete older *!Systems* just in case something has gone wrong.

Running PrinterLC

To use the printer driver, install it on the icon bar by double-clicking on *!PrinterLC*. Before using the driver, ensure that it is set to the correct output port. To do this, click **Menu** on the printer driver icon on the icon bar and choose **Parallel, Serial, Network** or **File**. Further details about these and other options on this menu are given in your Archimedes User Guide

Next, you should ensure that the printer driver is configured for your particular printer. To do this click **Select** on the printer driver icon on the icon bar to display a dialogue box. The printer type is displayed at the top of this box, and successive clicks on it with **Select** and **Adjust** cycle through the various printers and resolutions supported. The actual resolution in dots per inch for each printer, is given below the printer type. Printer types and resolutions supported are:

LC-200, LC-10 and Epson JX colour	low resolution	60 x 72 dpi
LC-200, LC-10 and Epson JX colour	medium resolution	120 x 144 dpi
LC-200, LC-10 and Epson JX colour	high resolution	240 x 216 dpi
LC24-200, XB24-10 and Epson LQ colour	low resolution	60 x 60 dpi
LC24-200, XB24-10 and Epson LQ colour	medium resolution	180 x 180 dpi
LC24-200, XB24-10 and Epson LQ colour	high resolution	360 x 180 dpi
LC24-200, XB24-10 and Epson LQ colour	very high resolution	360 x 360 dpi
NEC PinWriter P6	very high resolution	360 x 360 dpi

Graphics printing can be speeded up by using the **Monochrome graphics** option; this does, however, stop sprites and fonts being halftoned, and reduces the range of halftone options available on other plotted items.

Once you have configured the printer output port and printer type you may save the settings so that they be be selected by default each time the printer driver is loaded. To do this, click **Menu** over the printer driver icon on the icon bar and choose **Save choices.**

Text printing features

Release 2 printer drivers support many extra features for text printing. Text printing is achieved by dragging plain ASCII files to the printer driver icon on the icon bar. Some of these are outlined below, but are are described in greater detail in the *!Help* file located in the printer driver application directory.

Fancy text printing

Fancy text printing is achieved by dragging ASCII files containing control sequences for different effects, to the printer driver icon on the icon bar. The standard control sequences recognised in "fancy" text files are a subset of those used by 1stWord+. For instance, Pica/Elite/condensed/expanded, italics, underline, formfeed, etc. It is not intended that this feature be used to print faithfully all possible features that may be included in a file produced by 1stWord+ (use 1stWord+ to print these!), but rather that simple features may be included in text files and printed without having to load a word-processing application.

The options below are on the dialogue box which appear when **Select** is clicked on the printer driver icon on the icon bar.

Paper feed

The "manual feed" option causes a window to pop-up at the end of each page, of "fancy" text printing, and between files of any type when multiple files are printed. This allows the user to manually insert another sheet of paper into the printer before proceeding. Clicking on the close box of this window leaves the printer "paused" - it can be re-started by clicking **Select** or **Adjust** over its icon.

Title

Puts file name, time and page number at top of each "fancy" text page.

Number lines

Prints the number of each line in "fancy" text files.

Print line feeds

When printing either "fancy" or "plain" text, a carriage-return character is sent to the printer at the end of each line. If this button is "on", then a line-feed character is sent as well. Select "off" if your printer generates its own line-feeds, otherwise choose "on". If you find that your printer is producing a blank line after each line of text, or is printing everything on one line, you probably need to change this setting.

Print quality

For printers which have both draft and near-letter-quality printing modes, it is possible to select the print quality for "fancy" text printing. For draft-only printers, only draft may be selected.

Hints and tips

Graphics printing can be slow, so to speed it up you should free up as much memory as possible in your machine. You can do this by shrinking the RMA, disposing of an empty RAM disc, quitting unwanted applications and changing to a lower resolution screen mode.

Once the printer driver has been loaded and configured, the printer driver application may be removed from the icon bar. The module which does the actual printing will remain in memory. Quitting the printer driver application in this way currently frees 96K of memory giving more space for data, or for speeding up printing (see above).

You can achieve a print speed improvement of up to 8 times by choosing the monochrome option when printing. You only need grey-scaled output if you are using fonts or sprites in anything other than black and white. Most of the time monochrome dumps will do.

Always ensure that the paper size used by the application is the same as that specified in the printer driver. If you are using continuous stationery in your printer, ensure that the form length is also the same. Many problems arise when using A4 continuous stationery on dot-matrix printers. Most printers can only have only have a form length of 11" or 12" (set using a DIP switch), neither of which correspond to A4, so that on a multi-page document the printed pages soon start to straddle the perforations in the stationery. This situation can be improved (but not completely cured) by setting `job_prologue` in the *PrData* file in *!PrinterLC* to "<27>C<70>". This sets the form length to 70 x 1/6inch which equals 296.5mm (A4 is 297mm).

Dot-matrix printers cannot print right up to the edges of the paper. If the application from which you are printing has a **Show print margin** option, use it regularly to ensure that all your work is within the printable area. Anything within the print margin will not be printed.

If you find that the bottom of a page is printed at the top of the next page, you should try switching off the 'skip perforation' facility of your printer. This is normally done using a DIP switch; your printer manual will give further details.